

Procurement Works

A Newsletter from the Maryland Department of Health (MDH)
Office of Procurement and Support Services (OPASS)
July 2019

eMMA is here!!!

At long last, Maryland's transition to a new online eProcurement system is upon us. eMM will go dark at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 17, 2019. eMMA will officially go live at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, July 22, 2019. Please do not post online procurement information between these dates. If you are working on a procurement that will soon be ready for release, please post it prior to the time that eMM is discontinued, or in the alternative, wait until the morning of Monday, July 22, 2019 when eMMA will be up and running. After that time, all procurement information must be posted to eMMA. This includes not only large procurements and Category III small procurements, but Category I & II small procurements as well. Make sure that you sign up and attend eMMA training so that you will be ready to start using the new and improved system in timely fashion.

Training Announcement

OPASS offers a variety of procurement training programs which are advertised by e-mail to the OPASS Announcement Group as well as the video monitors at MDH HQ. You can sign-up for those training programs thru the HUB. For registration assistance, contact: Naisadh [Nick] Desai at Naishadh.desai@maryland.gov.

Upcoming Training

07/11/2019	9AM – 11:30AM 300 Auditorium	Bi-Annual Procurement Meeting
07/23/2019	1PM - 4PM L-3 MDH HQ	MBE-VSBE-SBR
08/08/2019	1PM - 4PM L-3 MDH HQ	Small Procurement 102

You can also find more Training information on our OPASS website:

<https://health.maryland.gov/opass/Pages/Home.aspx>

eMMA roll-out begins

The Bi-annual MDH Procurement Meeting on **July 11, 2019** will feature eMMA orientation and training. Beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the auditorium at 300 West Preston Street, Nitor representatives will offer a live demonstration of the system's incredible functionality. Hopefully you are already registered since room capacity has been reached.



Maryland Procurement Manual Now Available Online

As a part of procurement transformation, a team of procurement experts spent many hours translating the legalese set forth in Title 21 of the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) and the State Finance and Procurement Article of the Maryland Annotated Code into a well-organized easily understood narrative explaining in chronological fashion how to conduct State procurements. Although the provisions in the Code and COMAR prevail in the event of any perceived discrepancy, the new online Maryland Procurement Manual should be of great utility to procurement officials as well as private sector vendors who seek to understand the workings of State government in awarding contract opportunities. To access the Manual online, go to procurement.maryland.gov, where many additional resources can also be found. In addition to reciting the formal rules of procurement, the Manual includes many practice tips that may be useful in addressing a myriad of issues that may arise in the course of a State procurement.

October 1, 2019 is rapidly approaching

All of the components of the 2017 legislation implementing procurement reform in Maryland are required by law to be fully in force on Oct. 1, 2019. That means effective that date, MDH will no longer have multiple control agencies. All procurement will be centralized under the Central Procurement Office in the Department of General Services. Expert guidance previously offered by DoIT and DBM will continue but will be re-packaged under the new organizational structure.

Get Vendors to Register on eMMA

Promoting competition is the essence of successful procurement and one of the prime motivating forces behind the entire transformation effort that has been ongoing in Maryland over the past two years. It is essential that all private entities interested in the possibility of competing for a government contract register online at central.procurement@maryland.gov. Please contact all known vendors and encourage them to register. Registration is free and simple to do.



OPASS Director Dana Dembrow presenting to the Board of Public Works on June 19, 2019.